

# NORTHANTS Herald & Post



Don't miss our festive quiz and a local novelist compares a Noho Christmas with American celebrations

Thursday, December 25, 2014 | Issue number: 1,803 | northampton-news-hp.co.uk | 40p where sold

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**ALL SMILES:** Comedian Joe Pasquale brings festive fun and cheer to the children's ward at NGH with the cast of Peter Pan

## Just what the doctor ordered...

Cast members from pantomime Peter Pan spread some festive cheer when they visited the children's wards and activity centre at Northampton General Hospital on Monday. Comedian Joe Pasquale, who plays Smee, was joined by Ross Carpenter (Peter Pan), Amy Beadel (Wendy) and Lucy Evans (Tinkerbell) as they dropped by in between performances.

Peter Pan is on stage at Royal & Derngate until Sunday, January 4.

Tickets are priced from £9 to £28 and they can be booked by calling the box office on 01604 624811 or visiting the theatre's website, [www.royalandderngate.co.uk](http://www.royalandderngate.co.uk)

# Carlisle stable after collision

**DAN PALMER**  
[news@hpnorthants.co.uk](mailto:news@hpnorthants.co.uk)

Former Northampton Town skipper Clarke Carlisle is 'very poorly' but 'alive and stable' after being hit by a lorry, according to his wife.

The defender was rushed to Leeds General Infirmary after the incident near Bishopthorpe in North Yorkshire

at 7.30am on Monday. Reports suggested that the former Professional Footballers' Association chairman had suffered life threatening injuries but his wife Gemma has now said the family has been given the 'best Christmas gift we as a family could wish for'.

She tweeted: "Clarke's very poorly but he's alive and stable. Best Christmas

gift we as a family could wish for. Thanks again."

Mrs Carlisle had earlier tweeted that she had been overwhelmed by the number of well-wishers who have come forward since news of the collision broke yesterday evening.

The reason for the incident remains unclear.



Christmas cheers  
PAGE 8

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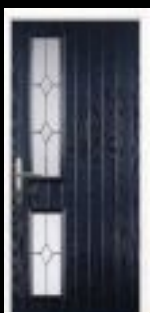
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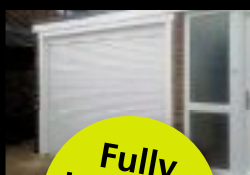
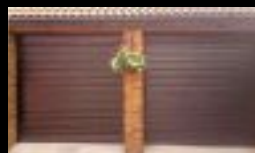


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Published and originated at 22 Mill Street, Bedford MK40 3HD by a division of Local World Ltd. Registered office in England No. 08290481, PO Box 10177, 50 St George Street, Leicester, LE1 8ED

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#snapjustice



Email pictures to: [news@HPnorthants.co.uk](mailto:news@HPnorthants.co.uk)

Pictures used anonymously

#Snapjustice is proving popular in the paper and online. Here is a picture sent in by an angry *Herald & Post* reader.

This shows a vehicle in the car park in Long Buckby's Market Square parked outside the white lines of a parking bay.

As part of the *Herald & Post's* #snapjustice campaign

readers are being asked to send in pictures of bad parking and other gripes which might bother you.

If you are frustrated by inconsiderate behaviour then take a picture of it on your phone.

You can tweet it to us @NorthamptonUK using #snapjustice or you can email it to us at [news@hpnorthants.co.uk](mailto:news@hpnorthants.co.uk)

text 2 text

Where is your favourite spot in the world?

Looking over the garden fence to the town of Castleford

When was the last time you cried?

Reading about the attacks on the schools in Pakistan

What animal spirit would you be?

A collie dog

What was the last thing you lost?

My train ticket



What was the last film you watched?

The Butler

What has been the happiest day of your life so far?

The day my children were born

What role would you have in a rock band?

I would be the saxophone player

What was the last book you read?

The 100-year-old Man Who Climbed Out of the Window and Disappeared

## Editor's Letter



### Merry Christmas and where is the love Mr Politician?

There's a timid feel to Christmas this year.

It's a year for prudence. It's a year for careful marshalling of resources. It's a year for saying: "maybe next year".

Our front page story captures the mood in many ways.

Clark Carlisle is in hospital after a terrible incident.

His condition has stabilised and that, to his wife and family, in their own words, is the best Christmas present they could have.

That's so true.

Nothing matters as much as the people we love.

The materialism of a typical modern Christmas is fun but ultimately empty and meaningless.

No amount of parties, decorations or gifts could possibly compare to having Clark on the road to recovery.

There will be countless other families in similar situations, worrying over someone who is ill or absent.

A little bit of good news will matter so much to them.

It is something to bear in mind about

**We are going to choose someone who knows how to count their beans . . .**

the way we think about our lives in relation to things like the economy.

There is a general election next year and the party with the most convincing approach to the economy will probably do better.

When we are choosing our new leaders we are going to choose someone who knows how to count their beans.

This feels like a sensible thing to do.

The economy is, after all, everything isn't it?

But a good old timid Christmas like this one tells us the opposite.

Money and goods are simply no replacement for the things that really matter.

The best these illusory treasures can ever hope to be is a symbol of what does matter and that is, broadly, love.

When the politicians come canvassing next year, ask them what they are doing to do about love.

Happy everything to everyone.

Steve Scoles





## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Foot patrol

Northamptonshire's Special Constabulary has contributed more than 100,000 policing hours to the county this year.

They have provided 100,994 hours of policing over 13,242 shifts. That's 26.1 hours per officer per month.

## New company

Northampton Partnership Homes will take over management of more than 12,000 council homes from Northampton Borough Council on January 5.

It will be responsible for the authority's housing stock.

## Pothole cash

Northamptonshire has been awarded £79m to repair all of the county's potholes and improve the standard of the roads.

This is on top of £3.3m in the UK budget in March.

## Dry challenge

Northamptonshire residents are being challenged to stop drinking for 31 days and sign up to Dry January 2015.

It is a chance for people to reassess excessive drinking as it can increase the risk of a wide range of health problems.

## Bin collections

Council bin collections change across the county at Christmas and in the new year.

You can check online at [www.northampton-news-hp.co.uk](http://www.northampton-news-hp.co.uk) to see when your bin will be emptied.

# Internet star is 'giving it some'

BY NICHOLAS BIEBER  
[nicholas.bieber@hpnorthants.co.uk](mailto:nicholas.bieber@hpnorthants.co.uk)

YouTube star The Wealdstone Raider is donating money from his big-hit Christmas single to a Northamptonshire charity.

The internet sensation shot to fame on YouTube after mocking a rival football team's lack of fans and ground and threatening to 'give some' to a supporter of the opposition.

The Raider - real name Gordon Hill - was so overwhelmed by the five million views the video had received, that he decided to release his own single 'Got No Fans' in the aim of making it the official Christmas number one.

On Sunday, it almost made it, finishing at a very respectable number five.

The video for the single features The Raider, who in real life is a 48-year-old builder, offering to 'give it ya' to the people of central London.

Ironically, this is exactly what he has been doing, as all proceeds from the track will now be split between Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital, Wealdstone Raiders Youth FC and Northamptonshire-based Autism Concern.

The inspiration behind choosing the Northants-based charity is because the chairman of



YOU WANT SOME?: The Raider

Wealdstone FC, Paul Rumens, has an autistic son who often attends the charity's play schemes.

Julia Hardcastle, managing director of Autism Concern, said: "We are so delighted The Raider has chosen to be part of our mission to serve the autistic community of Northamptonshire."

"It will have a big impact on a charity like us."

"It will throw us into

the national spotlight which is something that hasn't happened to us before!"

"The money we receive will be going towards our new building we hope to start work on in the new year."

See the video for 'Got No Fans' on our website at [www.northampton-news-hp.co.uk](http://www.northampton-news-hp.co.uk)

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# High street store delivers a showstopper

Opening a flagship store like Northampton's new Primark is almost as involved as putting on a show, as Nick Bieber discovered. . .



Northampton's new Primark store has officially opened in the Grosvenor Shopping Centre.

The shop, which is three times bigger than the previous one in Abington Street, opened at 9am last Thursday to a queue of 400 shoppers who had been waiting since 8am.

When the shutters came up to unveil the new look branch, they all piled through the door within minutes to check out the 33,400 sq ft space.

The store, which has 25 tills, 33 dressing rooms and 190 staff - of which 131 are new local employees - is spread across two floors, with the first floor itself being 2,500 sq ft - bigger than the whole previous store which was 10,000 sq ft.

The ground floor features fashion for women, footwear, home, health and beauty and hosiery. The first floor features menswear and children's clothing.

Constructing the shop itself, which was opened by the Mayor of



Northampton, Cllr John Caswell, took a team of 78 people 13 weeks to complete.

The board director of Primark, Breege O'Donoghue, was at the launch and told the *Northants H&P*: "It was an extremely proud moment to open it with the Mayor of Northampton."

"We had 77 Primark staff to assist in the opening to ensure high standards were available for our customers. We treat our customers like celebrities."

"When we opened, the management team were receiving plenty of positive feedback."

"Many customers were saying this is totally different to the previous store and that it is much better."

"People used to travel to Milton Keynes to go to the larger Primark there but now they won't have to."

**'BIGGER AND BETTER':** Customers were impressed with the new look Primark store in the Grosvenor Shopping Centre, which used to be a House of Fraser store

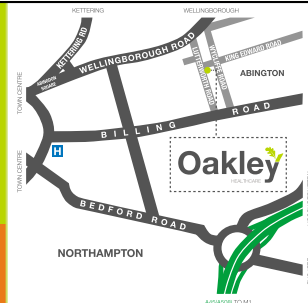


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# Top 5

## North Korea's top 5 hacks in the county?

It happened to Sony. What if North Korea did the same to Northants? Would these be the targets?

1

What if they hacked into Carlsberg? Could they stop the international brewer getting out the world famous beer? Would it cause havoc to the production line?  
A nation could go thirsty.



2

What if North Korea did not like a play at Royal & Derngate? Maybe their cyber hackers would buy up all the tickets to force the imperialistic western actors to perform to an empty auditorium.  
All the tickets sold but no audience.



3

What if they caused consternation at the breakfast table and decided Weetabix was not fuel for the people.  
Would they cause us to start the day without our Weetabix?



4

Could they hack into the console on Lewis Hamilton's F1 car and instead of instructions from the pit crew, he could be subjected to easy listening music and endless repeats of the shipping forecast?



5

The Lift Tower in Northampton is set to be lit up with various images projected onto it. What if North Korea decided it should decree what should be displayed. The People's Republic of Northampton beware.



# Jury told to bring own sandwiches

BY NICHOLAS BIEBER  
nicholas.bieber@hpnorthants.co.uk

An 'embarrassed' judge told jurors at a murder trial at Northampton Crown Court to bring their own packed lunches to court because of government cuts.

Judge Rupert Mayo was left feeling embarrassed when he was forced to tell the jury they would have to bring their own lunches because no catering facilities had been arranged.

BBC Northampton reported that during the trial last Wednesday Judge Mayo say-

ing: "I am almost too embarrassed to tell you that that's the housekeeping rules tomorrow."

He also had to tell jurors on the Stanley Harrison murder trial that the Ministry of Justice had cut funding so much that no catering facilities could be arranged for them during the trial.

Judge Mayo continued when he added: "Bring a packed lunch tomorrow so that you can have lunch when

you like." Responding to need for all the jurors to bring their own packed lunches to Northampton Crown

Courts, a spokesman for HM Courts & Tribunals Service said a national contract with caterers Eures had expired on August 31.

The spokesperson for the government department added that negotiations for a new catering contract for Northampton Crown Court were ongoing.

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## Christmas cheer...



### Cheerleaders to star on Soccer AM

The Northants Steelbacks' cheerleaders are set to star on Soccer AM's Christmas special alongside Stoke City's Peter Crouch, I'm A Celebrity's Jimmy Bullard and former Northampton Town striker Adebayo Akinfenwa.

The Sky Sports 1 football show was filmed last Tuesday and will be airing on Christmas Day.

See the full story and more pictures on our website.

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#### Minestrone Soup & Bread (v)

### Mains

#### Salmon & Prawns

With green beans and potato wedges.

#### Charcoal Grilled Salmon

Nicely seasoned with pan fried green beans, garlic and herbs.

#### Fillet Steak

With grilled peppers, mushroom and chips.

#### Marinated Fillet Steak

Charcoal grilled with a touch of chilli served with a peppercorn sauce.

#### Turkey Breast in Red Wine Sauce

Served with brussels sprouts, bacon, baby carrots and roast potatoes.

#### Pizza Frutti di Mare (v)

### Dessert

**Traditional Christmas pudding (v) (n)**  
Served with brandy sauce.

#### Panatone (v)

Served with choice of ice cream or cream.

#### Tiramisu (v)

Served with cream and fresh strawberries.

(v) Dishes suitable for vegetarians. (n) Dishes containing nuts. Fish may contain bones. Some olives may contain the occasional stone.



## NEWS IN BRIEF

## 40th birthday

Thomas Becket RC Upper School in Becket Way in Northampton is holding a 40th anniversary celebration on June 27 next year.

All former pupils of the school are welcome to attend the event.

## Festive advice

Officers from Oundle have given away hundreds of security devices to residents in the build-up to Christmas.

They gave away window and shed alarms, timer switches and briefed residents how to keep their homes safe.

## Charity auction

An auction evening at Strixton Manor Farm near Wellingborough raised £5,000 for a farming charity.

The event was held in aid of the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution (R.A.B.I.).

## Car attacked

A blue Audi A3 parked in a Corby street had its windows smashed by vandals who then tried to set it on fire.

It was in Bideford Square when it was targeted between 9.45pm on December 17 and 8am on December 18.

## Top location

South Northamptonshire is one of the best places to live in the UK for quality of life, according to a survey.

The district has been named in Halifax's Quality of Life Survey as the seventh best place to live.

## Test fire alarms

Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service is asking people to make a New Year's resolution to test their smoke alarms every month.

They want people to make sure they have enough smoke alarms in their homes.

## Found safe

Police found missing Darren West, 29, from Rushden, and his four-year-old son Lewis on Monday.

Officers were concerned for Darren and Lewis' welfare but they were found safe and well in Higham Ferrers.

## Wassail time

People are invited to bring musical instruments, pots and pans to Daventry Country Park for a 'Wassail' celebration. It takes place at noon on January 3 for 'wassailing' - awakening the trees for the coming season.



PRIZE: Jessica D'Aulero, chairwoman of Northampton BID, with the winners' cheque

## These lucky ladies have a 'Golden Ticket'

Northampton Town BID's final two 'Golden Ticket' winners have been unveiled this week.

They are Jane Buswell and Tracey Hodgkiss, both from East Hunsbury.

Mum of three, Tracey said: "I'm so pleased, it's brilliant. It's so difficult to choose where to spend them, there are such a variety of shops in the town centre.

"Our children are three, eight and 13 so the vouchers will probably go on toys and clothes. I've lived in Northampton all my life and do my shopping in the town centre all the time – the Golden Tickets are a great idea."

Jane said: "I'm absolutely amazed that I've won. I've seen the Golden Ticket features in the papers

over the past few weeks but you never think it'll be you.

"I'm going to spend some of the vouchers in Next on some clothes for the new year.

"I think I'll treat myself to some jewellery from one of the independent shops.

"It'll be lovely to have something special to remind myself of the prize draw. I'm absolutely delighted."

## Teen 'robbed of life and justice'

BY NICHOLAS BIEBER  
nicholas.bieber@hpnorthants.co.uk

The family of a 17-year-old boy from Northamptonshire who was stabbed to death by his best friend after an argument over tobacco say they have been 'robbed of justice'.

Ryan Johal, 18, was found guilty of the involuntary manslaughter of his best friend Stanley Harrison (pictured) following an argument at his home in Daventry on June 14.

Johal was given a jail sentence of five years and three months following a six day trial at Northampton Crown Court last Wednesday.

Johal will serve just



under half of that. Following the verdict, Stanley's family released a statement in which they said they had been left 'devastated' by Stanley's death.

The statement reads: "With this verdict, we feel that Stanley has been robbed of his life and now of justice too.

"We believe that his 'friend', Ryan Johal, did

mean to murder him, with jealousy being the motive.

"Stanley loved life and enjoyed it to the full. He was no different to any other teenager and he did not deserve to have his life cut short in this way.

"We are devastated that we have lost Stanley and life will never be the same again, especially for his mother.

"He was the love of her life and her soul mate. She is left empty and devoid of life without him.

"We would like to thank the police for all they have done for us during this dreadful time. They have been very supportive of us all."

## Red Arrows' Red Ten's flying visit

A group of air cadets had a high-flying visitor drop into their awards evening.

Mike Ling, squadron leader of the Royal Air Force's Red Arrows aerobatic display team, attended the event for 378 (Mannock) Air

Training Corps based in Wellingborough earlier this week.

Mike, known on his team by his call-sign 'Red Ten', is not only an experienced fast-jet pilot but also a former air cadet and he was delighted to have the chance to

leave his cockpit long enough to present some awards to the group's cadets.

The event marked the many achievements of the cadets with trophies and certificates awarded to a number of young people.

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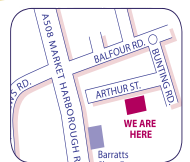
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SUNDAY 28<sup>th</sup> Dec CLOSED

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ON BOARD WITH CHANGE: Shadow Home Secretary, Yvette Cooper, at Northampton railway station

# Cooper calls for PCCs to be axed

BY LAWRENCE JOHN  
lawrence.john@hpnorthants.co.uk

**Northamptonshire Police and Crime Commissioner Adam Simmonds better find a new job as far as Shadow Home Secretary Yvette Cooper is concerned.**

The Labour front bench MP said she would like to scrap all PCCs in the UK and instead spend the money on frontline policing and on a national network of refuges for women who have suffered from domestic violence.

This is one of the views which Mrs Cooper raised during her visit to Northampton last Thursday where she hit the campaign trail with Sally Keeble, the prospective Labour Parliamentary Candidate for Northampton North.

Her comments came following a visit to Women's Aid.

Speaking to the *Herald & Post*, Mrs Cooper said: "Visiting Women's Aid was really interesting especially meeting those who had been affected by domestic violence.

"Some of the victims who are now survivors are providing the support service for other women in trouble.

"What I would like to see is a national network of refuges in different parts of the country.

"I would fund this by scrapping all the PCCs in the UK which as far I am concerned have been a very expensive experiment.

"I would use the money from having no PCCs and spend it on frontline policing and the network of refuges."

While out canvassing with Sally, she said there were three hot topics on voters' lips.

These were the NHS, family finance and immigration.

Mrs Cooper said when people were asked what they wanted to happen about immigration and they were given the options such as doing nothing, having tighter border controls or restrictions - they went for restrictions.

She explained this would mean people who came into the country would have to wait two years before getting any benefits.

Mrs Cooper said immigration hit families when employers like Greencore, which is based in Northamptonshire, decided to try to hire overseas workers.

She added: "A lot of families are worried about zero hour contracts as they are unfair."

## 'Pit bull' bites man and dog

A dog and its owner were bitten by a pit bull-type dog on a bus.

The incident happened on Wednesday, December 10 at about 2pm.

The victim was on the lower deck of a

Stagecoach bus (number 15453) travelling along Tonmead Road, Northampton, when a man with a brown dog came down from the top level. Both the victim and his dog received small bites.

## Cosworth is ready for action

Preparations have now started for Cosworth's new facility in the Northampton Waterside Enterprise Zone.

New machinery is arriving and being calibrated, before tools are set and catalogued to ensure each provides the exacting level of precision that is needed.

Northampton Borough Council built the facility and handed it over last week.

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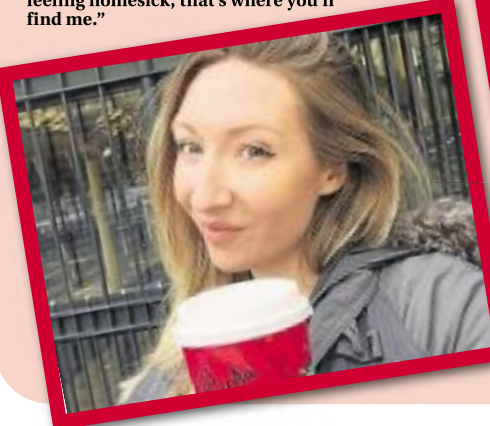
## MUSTHAVE

### Coffee

Actress Nicola Buck from Northampton must have Starbucks Coffee

Nicola who has her first film role in The Theory of Everything said: "It's the only thing that no matter where I am in the world tastes the same."

"It's my home away from home and whenever I'm feeling homesick, that's where you'll find me."



**Herald  
& Post**

## MUGSHOT



Jack Wilson, communications officer at Anthony Nolan, takes time out of his busy day to read the *Northants Herald & Post* online at [www.northampton-news-hp.co.uk](http://www.northampton-news-hp.co.uk)

Jack has helped provide information about little boy 'GI Joey' from Northampton and his search for a bone marrow donor.

You can keep up to date with all the news, views, competitions, sport, leisure and bloggers online with the *Northants Herald & Post*, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

## WALKING WEATHER ON CHRISTMAS DAY

**Jamie Dunlop**

Weather blogger Jamie Dunlop lives in Northampton and works at Cotters Insurance.



Christmas Day 2014 will be a very pleasant winter's day. Dry and bright with plenty of sunshine.

There will be a chill in the air with highs of 6c and a frost may well form quite quickly in the evening. Perfect conditions for walking off that turkey lunch.

Boxing Day looks colder still with highs around 4c. It will be a cloudier day but should stay dry during daylight hours until some rain arrives in the evening.

There is a great deal of uncertainty with regards to the weather at the end of the week heading into next weekend.

There is talk of a nasty winter storm

arriving which could cause east coast flooding as strong northerly winds affect the North Sea.

This could mean that the county may see gusts over 60mph. There is also talk of some wintry conditions developing but other computer models are suggesting a return to milder south westerly winds this weekend. Expect the Met Office to issue warnings mid week if the models do firm up on the chance of this storm occurring.

You can keep up to date with all the holiday weather by following @NNweather on Twitter.

Have a peaceful and very merry Christmas.

# YourLetters



## Is CCTV the best way to keep our schools safe?

The news earlier this year that the Department of Education is investing a large amount of money in CCTV solutions in our nation's schools to keep on top of any growing drug problems, can only be met with a positive response.

With security transmission technology now available to monitor cameras on a range of devices, from laptops to smartphones, it has never been

easier for teachers to monitor their pupils in a discreet way.

As the CEO of Vemotion, a UK and global pioneer for rapidly deployable security transmission systems, I understand what being able to monitor pupils in this way will mean.

The need for external security guards will reduce; meaning school staff will be able to follow CCTV on demand when required, but in a way that will not impinge on their teaching capabilities or impact on their critical relationship of trust with children.

With the ball now in the court of

individual schools on whether to act on this new security 'permission' from the Government, I hope that head teachers will do everything they can to aid the safety and welfare of our children.

We are pleased to offer free demonstrations to any schools, local authorities or law enforcement agencies. Seeing is believing; for further information, visit <http://www.vemotion.com>

Stewart McCone  
CEO, Vemotion

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**THEN AND NOW:** Clare before she started losing weight, and right, as she looks now



# Clare keeps her promise

BY LAWRENCE JOHN  
lawrencejohn@hpnorthants.co.uk

**DESPITE** many being broken before January is over, one woman has stuck to her guns to keep her 2014 New Year's resolution - and it's put a smile on her face.

At the end of last year Clare Deer, 32, from Earls Barton, pledged to shed the weight she had gained during a lengthy battle with depression.

She said: "I just didn't recognise the person looking back at me in the mirror. During the depression, food became a

comfort, but that comfort was now what was holding me back."

Clare decided this was a fight she could not win alone so she joined a Slimming World group.

She said: "I was so nervous walking into my first meeting, 'I thought everyone would be judging me. The reality could not have been more different."

"I lost 6lbs in my first week, and I haven't looked back."

And a year, and almost six stone later, she's launching her own group on January 7. To join call 07533 333316.

## AIR AMBULANCE MISSION REPORT



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## Andrew to deliver Ebola help



ON DUTY: Staff sergeant Andrew Hunter (Photo by Sgt Si Longworth)

Staff sergeant Andrew Hunter is a postman by trade but he is set to be delivering hope and help to Ebola victims in Sierra Leone over Christmas.

The 45-year-old from Northampton is in no doubt how dangerous this mission is but he is confident the training he received from the Army will protect him and his colleagues.

Staff Sgt Hunter is one of 17 Army Reservists that were trained at the Army Medical Services Training Centre (AMSTC) near

York, before they were deployed to Sierra Leone on December 20.

Staff Sgt Hunter, who has been an Army Reservist for nearly 24 years, said: "The hardest part was telling my wife as without knowing about the training people think about the dangers of the disease."

"We have not been separated at Christmas before but this is a job and you have to go where the military want you to go."

He added they would celebrate a family Christmas in January.

## Chef Damian is a winner!

BY LAWRENCE JOHN  
lawrence.john@hpnorthants.co.uk

**Christmas came early for the Cobblers' chef.**

Damian Mallon, from Northampton, received an early present after becoming a winner in the *Northants Herald & Post* advent calendar competition.

The cash win, on day 17 of the giveaway, is good timing for Damian as he is currently recovering from major spinal surgery.

He said: "I have grown up with the *Herald & Post* and this is where I am able to read my local news."

"I do not always get a copy through the door but I am able to catch up with everything online."

"I just saw the competition and decided to enter, I never thought I would win."

"I will spend the money on a child's-style iPad for my little boy. At the moment I am recovering after my third operation in six years on my back."

"Normally I am the head chef at Northampton Town Football Club (where he has been for the



SIXFIELDS STADIUM: Where Damian Mallon is the Cobblers' head chef

past 18 months) which means making all the meals for the players and those who come along and enjoy the corporate hospitality."

It is something which Damian is missing but he soon hopes to be back in the kitchens at Sixfields once he is better.

The *H&P* has been giving away a host of prizes throughout the month.

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1st January 2015

## A New Year Message from Nigel Farage



Dear People of Northampton,

2015 will be a time of change. For the first time there is a good chance you will elect a UKIP candidate as your next MP.

Both Michael Ellis and Sally Keeble, your MPs for the past 17 years, are excellent people and have done a great job for the people of Northampton North.

But the change that is coming is not a reflection of the good work Michael and Sally have done but just the people's desire for a new approach to politics that is happening not only in Northampton but all over Britain.

There are many reasons for this. UKIP is the only party that has firm, workable and solid ideas for improving the service you get from Northampton General Hospital. UKIP also wants to have a debate about the incredible expansion of Northampton that is currently seeing the local population grow by as much as three to four per cent a year, something that quite frankly is unsustainable.

Don't get me wrong, UKIP is not against progress but it is against mindless progress, where everything gets bigger just for the sake of it. You will have noticed the traffic chaos that is engulfing Northampton caused by over expansion - someone has to call for some common sense thinking to a process that threatens the whole way of life of Northampton's citizens.

UKIP is the party that will bring true democracy to Northampton people. We will instigate local referendums so you, not civil servants in London, can decide the future of your town.

One thing I can promise you - after May 2015, your UKIP MP will put party politics aside and fight tooth and nail for all of the 65,000 citizens of Northampton North, regardless of who they are, what their backgrounds are, where they came from or who they voted for.

UKIP is a party of all the people for all the people, a notion that has largely been forgotten in politics these past 50 years.

Thanks for reading this and I am looking forward to visiting Northampton soon.

Nigel Farage MEP

Adoption information evening: **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> Jan 6.30pm-8.00pm**

Venue: SFCS, Collis House, 48 Newport Road, Woolstone, Milton Keynes, MK15 0AA

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## Bridge Street bar is back open after 'riot'

BY NICHOLAS BIEBER  
nicholas.bieber@hpnorthants.co.uk

A bar which had its licence suspended after a 60-man brawl outside another venue has been given the all clear to reopen.

Newly launched Nu Bar was ordered to shut after its open night because it was believed a number of people involved in the six stabbings outside Faces Bar, which are both in Bridge Street, had been drinking there first.

Last Thursday, after a licensing hearing by Northampton Borough Council - which was held in private - the owner of Nu Bar was told he needed to complete a comprehensive risk assessment before the suspension could be lifted.

The next day, he was given the go ahead.

Councillor David Mackintosh, leader of the borough council, said: "Following the incident the management of Nu Bar has been working with our officers and those at Northamptonshire Police.

"It is clear they take their



**MASS BRAWL:** The large scale fight involved about 50 or 60 people

responsibilities seriously and this can be seen in how quickly they have made the changes required by our licensing sub-committee.

"With all of the conditions met, I am pleased to see that the bar can reopen.

"Police and licensing officers will continue to monitor the situation and we will take any further action we deem necessary over this busy period to keep the public safe."

A 19-year-old man has been arrested in connection with the stabbings.

Police were called out to the town centre at about 3.30am on Friday, December 12 after a fight broke out in Faces bar and then spilled out into the street.

An eye-witness described the scene as 'a mass riot' and said it looked similar to the scenes from the London riots in 2011.

Read more on our website.

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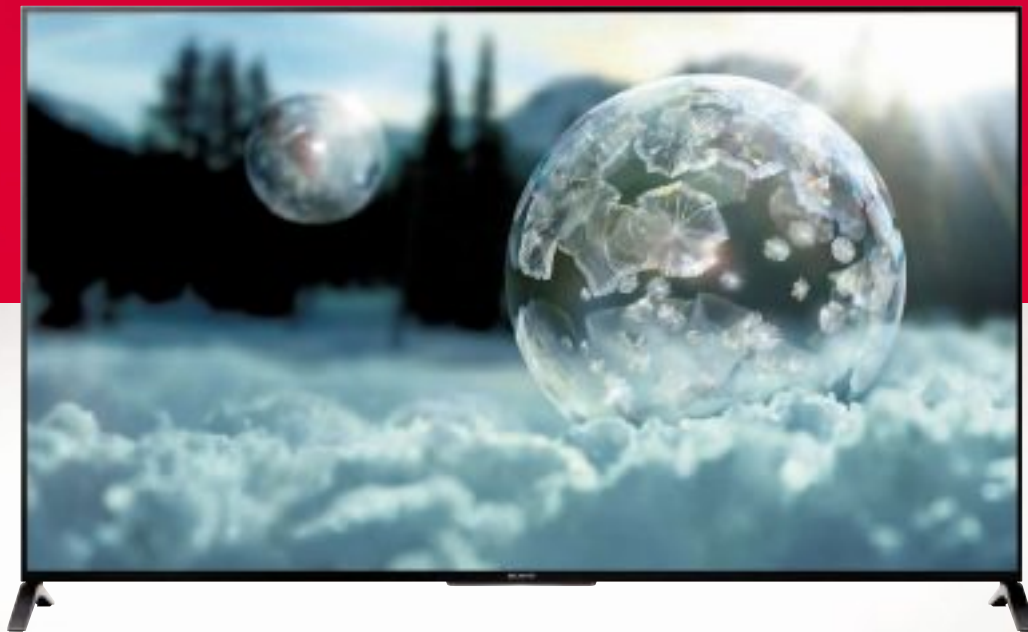


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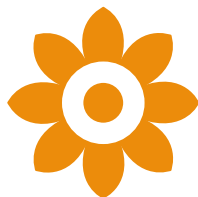
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# Festive Fun

Thursday, December 25, 2014

## Christmas compared: USA v UK

See page 24

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## COOL LIST

## Xmas in the UK is similar to USA

Northampton writer, Elaina Duke takes a look at her experiences of Christmas in the UK and in the USA and what makes them so great



## Elaina Duke

**Mum Elaina Duke, who now lives in Northampton, recently wrote her first novel called Long Distance.**

**It is about her experience of growing up in Western New York and the way in which her dad's mental illness, in his case schizophrenia, impacted on both their lives. It took Elaina, who moved to Great Britain when she was 19 years old, nearly two years to get the book in to a shape where she was happy to get it self published.**

**Elaina, is married to Robbie who used to work for the late, great music producer Joe Meek. She spends her days writing novel number two and studying for her Open University degree in English Literature and Creative Writing.**

**A cobblestone village street with a red post box. Church bells clang as snow cascades from the clouds.**

Inside a cosy little cottage, a family (ranging from a granny who looks remarkably like the Queen, to a wan little boy who could be Tiny Tim) exchange gifts while carols stream from the speakers of a nearby radio.

Ah, Christmas in England. Or so I thought. I can probably guess what an American Christmas looks like to you.

The dazzling lights and shop window displays along 5th Avenue in New York City (pictured), or perhaps a crazed father (a la Clark Griswold) climbing up a ladder to arrange a three million watt version of the North Pole on his roof.

The average British family doesn't live in a cottage and the average American family doesn't have a 30 foot tree in their living room.

We actually have much in common, but these are the differences that stick out for this American expat.

An American house with no outdoor Christmas lights sticks out like a sore thumb. But before you become too excited, only the town show-off has an animatronic nativity, a singing snowman, and a life-size Santa on his roof.

Most people feel one string of lights is acceptable. In Britain the house with lights is the odd one out.

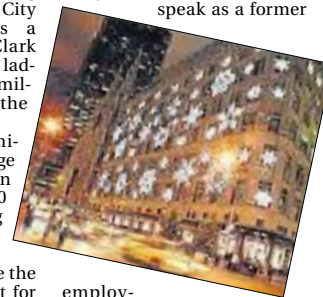
Bing Crosby, Brenda Lee, Burl Ives – well known and well-loved on both sides of the pond, but I'll let you in on a little secret: Americans have never heard of 'Merry Xmas Everybody' or 'I Wish It Could Be Christmas Everyday' – your Christmas staples which both came out

in 1973, like you got all that embarrassing Crimbo music over and done with in one year.

I'm always amazed by how quick the British are to criticise their own country when I tell them where I'm from.

'Christmas is so dull here compared to America, I'll bet'. Yet when American-style commercialisation takes hold (think Halloween), the very same people will say how much they hate it. You can't have it both ways!

Yes, Christmas in America is very commercialised, and I speak as a former



employee of Hallmark

Cards, where they start selling Christmas ornaments in July. One of my most 'commercialised' yet treasured memories is of a special advent calendar I had as a child, which was a poster of a Coca-Cola chugging Santa.

His beard was printed with a December calendar and every night I would glue a cotton ball onto the corresponding day, until his beard was full – and then it was Christmas!

Personally, I love the excess. Why shouldn't we pull out all the stops and make it magical for the children?

Next, she'll talk about the lack of snow – is there anything she likes about

Christmas in Britain, you ask? Certainly; the TV adverts (Monty the penguin made me cry), the fact that most schools still have Nativity plays, the way schoolchildren exchange Christmas cards, Christmas crackers, Boxing Day (a.k.a. stay-in-your-pyjamas-and-watch-TV-all-day day), to name a few.

And another thing – television on Christmas Day in America isn't as exciting as you'd perhaps think. In the 90s, the TBS network began a tradition of broadcasting a 24-hour marathon of A Christmas Story (about Ralphie 'You'll shoot your eye out' Parker's 1940s family

Christmas) which goes on to this day. Of course we all watch the classics; It's A Wonderful Life, White Christmas, National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation, Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer, Frosty The Snowman, Miracle on 34th Street (both versions), The Grinch Who Stole Christmas (usually the animated one) – but how enjoyable can it be when they're interrupted by commercials every 10 minutes?

I've spent Christmas in Britain in at least five different towns and with at least three different families, and the funny thing is – it's always me, the American, who faithfully watches the Queen's speech as my British family and friends get on with other things.

At the heart of it all, we're the same. Families and friends gather together to celebrate, to share, and to love. We remember the loved ones we have lost, and we wonder, sometimes with trepidation, what the coming year will hold. We spend money we don't have on the people we can't live without.



# CHRISTMAS QUIZ



## Have a go at our Christmas quiz

Have a go at our Christmas Quiz, the answers are at the bottom of the page. You can go online for an extended version of the quiz on our website...

### CHRISTMAS FILMS AND TV:

1: Which soap legend died on Christmas Day 2006?

2: 'I'm dreaming of a White Christmas' - We all know the words but what was the title of the 1942 film that the song first appeared in?

3: Play this one for me. Which famous American screen actor was born on Christmas Day 1899?

4: What caused the chip shop in Coronation Street to burn down on Christmas Day 2005?

5: In the 1996 Christmas Special of Only Fools and Horses what did Del Boy and Rodney find in their garage that turned them, overnight, into millionaires?

6: Who wrote the poem, A Visit from St Nicholas, the first line of which was the inspiration for Tim Burton's film The Nightmare before Christmas?

7: Who became an honorary muppet playing Scrooge in A Muppet's Christmas Carol?

8: Over 27 million people, more than half the UK population at that time, tuned in to watch which TV special on Christmas Day 1977?

9: Christmas Day 2007 was the 50th anniversary of which televised annual tradition?

### CHRISTMAS FEASTING:

1: To within 20lbs (or 12 kilos) how much did the heaviest Christmas pudding ever recorded weigh?

2: What is it technically illegal to eat on Christmas Day?

3: What is another name for Eggnog?

4: What did the pastry case of a mince pie originally represent?

5: See if you can crack this festive anagram: NAZI BLURT (6,3)

6: If you've got any room left after the Christmas dinner perhaps you'll bring out the chocolate log at tea-time. But what would the Norse folk of olden times have done with their Yule logs?

7: Who was the first person in England (that we know of) who ate turkey on Christmas Day?

8: How many 'maids a-milking' were sent, to a true love, as a Christmas gift?

9: Here's a hot, spicy anagram to solve: It sounds like we're going to need this to warm us up. NUDE, WE MILL (6,4)

10: Unwrap this tasty anagram: NAPKINS GIBLETS (4,2,8)

### MUSIC, SONGS AND CHRISTMAS CAROLS:

1: These are the initials of the words that make up the first line of a Christmas carol or song. Can you sing what they are? LTAIBSTHBS

2: THATIWTFBG

3: SBRAYLITLSIG

4: What did Dora Bryan want for Christmas in 1963?

5: What two non-humans have topped the Christmas charts - and have a guess at when that was?

6: Can you unravel this anagram? It really is a NESTLING HIT (6,5).

7: What were the boys of the NYPD choir singing as the bells were ringing out for Christmas Day?

8: What was Mummy seen doing to Santa Claus - and where?

9: Which teenager, in 1972,

re-released a version of Bobby Day's 1958 hit, Rockin' Robin?

10: What is the only song to make it to the Christmas Number 1 spot in the charts three times?

### CHRISTMAS FILMS AND TV:

- 1: EastEnders Pauline Fowler (Wendy Richard)
- 2: Holiday Inn
- 3: Humphrey Bogart
- 4: When her oven broke down, chip shop worker Cilla Battersby-Brown tried to deep-fry a turkey there - with disastrous consequences
- 5: A hugely valuable antique watch
- 6: Nightmare Before Christmas; Clement Clarke Moore
- 7: Michael Caine - not many people know that
- 8: The Morecambe and Wise Christmas Special. The Queen herself is believed to have requested that the turkey roast be put back an hour to watch their madcap seasonal festivities
- 9: The Queen's Speech

### CHRISTMAS FEASTING:

- 1: 7231 lbs (3286.818181 kg) or 3.28 tonnes. It was made in Aughton, Lancs on July 11, 1992
- 2: Mince Pies. Oliver Cromwell banned Christmas pudding, mince pies and anything that smacked remotely of gluttony - and the law has never been rescinded
- 3: Egg Flip
- 4: The crib of the baby Jesus. Mince pies, filled with a mixture of meat and fruit were oblong in shape and on top was baked a pastry child
- 5: Brazil Nut
- 6: Burned them. It was a real tree trunk that had to be lit from the remains of the previous year's log as a symbol of warmth and light which would return in the spring. It was kept alight for the whole 12 days of Christmas and it was considered very bad luck if the fire was allowed to go out
- 7: Henry VIII
- 8: Eight
- 9: Mulled Wine
- 10: Pigs in Blankets

### MUSIC, SONGS AND CHRISTMAS CAROLS:

- 1: Long time ago in Bethlehem so the Holy Bible say (Mary's Boy Child)
- 2: The holly and the ivy When they are both full grown
- 3: Sleigh bells ring, are you listening? In the lane snow is glistening (Winter Wonderland)
- 4: A Beatie
- 5: Mr Blobby was the Xmas No 1 in 1993 and Bob the Builder in 2000
- 6: Silent Night
- 7: They were singing Galway Bay in the great Christmas song Fairytale of New York recorded by The Pogues and Kirsty McColl
- 8: Kissing Santa Claus Underneath the mistle-toe last night
- 9: Michael Jackson
- 10: The Band Aid charity song Do They Know It's Christmas took the top spot in 1984, 1989 and 2004

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Thursday, December 25, 2014

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**See inside for review**



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2004 54 CORSA 1.2 LIFE 5 door, spearmint silver, 33,000 miles	£2995
2004 04 CORSA 1.2 LIFE 5 door, red, 56,000 miles	£2695

LOW MILEAGE ASTRAS	
2013 13 ASTRA 1.6 Sri 5 door, black, 10,000 miles	£9995
2012 62 ASTRA 1.6 ACTIVE 5 door, silver, 8000 miles	£9495
2010 10 ASTRA 1.6 SE 5 door, blue, 19,000 miles	£7495
2007 57 ASTRA 1.6 SXi 5 door, silver, 43,000 miles	£4995
2006 55 ASTRA 1.6 DESIGN 5 door, grey, average mileage	£2995
2004 04 ASTRA 2.0 TURBO SRT (170) 5 door, silver, 77,000 miles	£2995
2000 W ASTRA 1.6 LS 5 door, white, average mileage	£995

LOW MILEAGE FOCUS	
2012 12 FOCUS 1.6 ZETEC (125) 5 door, black, 53,000 miles	£8995
2012 61 FOCUS 1.6 ZETEC 5 door, mica stone, 14,000 miles	£8995
2011 11 FOCUS 1.6 ZETEC (125) 5 door, silver, 26,000 miles	£8495
2010 60 FOCUS 1.6 ZETEC 5 door, silver, 24,000 miles	£7995
2010 10 FOCUS 1.6 ZETEC 5 door, blue, grey, 10,000 miles	£6995
2007 57 FORD FOCUS 1.6 (115) TITANIUM 5 door estate, blue, 61,000 miles	£4995
2005 05 FOCUS 1.6 ZETEC 5 door, black, 63,000 miles	£2995
1999 T FOCUS 1.8 GHIA 4 door, red, average mileage	£995

LOW MILEAGE PEUGEOT	
2013 13 PEUGEOT 208 1.2 (82) ALLURE 5 door, blue, 5400 miles	£9995
2007 07 PEUGEOT 307 1.4 S 5 door, silver, 73,000 miles	£3495

FIAT	
2012 62 FIAT PUNTO 1.2 EASY 5 door, red, 5000 miles	£6995
2008 08 FIAT PUNTO 1.2 ACTIVE 5 door, black, 49,000 miles	£3995

DIESELS	
2011 11 NISSAN JUKE 1.5 DCI (110) ACCENTA PREMIUM 5 door, grey, above average mileage	£8495
2010 10 SUZUKI SX4 1.6DDI S 524 5 door, blue, 25,000 miles	£7995
2010 10 PEUGEOT 308 SW 1.6 HDI (90)S 5 door, estate, black, 29,000 miles	£6995
2009 09 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.5 DCI N TEC 5 door, black, 47,000 miles	£9995
2009 09 MONDEO 2.0 TDCI (140) ZETEC 5 door, grey, 41,000 miles	£6995
2008 58 FIESTA 1.4 TDCI STYLE CLIMATE 5 door, blue, 56,000 miles	£4995
2008 08 FORD S-MAX 2.0 TDCI (143) TITANIUM 5 door, green, 81,000 miles	£7995
2008 08 CORSA 1.3 CDTI LIFE 5 door, blue, 30,000 miles	£4995
2007 57 PEUGEOT 207 1.6 HDI (90) S 5 door, blue, 51,000 miles	£4995
2007 07 PEUGEOT 207 1.6 HDI (110) SPORT 5 door, grey, 82,000 miles	£4995
2006 56 CITROEN PICASSO 1.6 HDI EXCLUSIVE 5 door, grey, above average mileage	£2695
2005 55 MERIVA 1.7 CDTI LIFE 5 door, silver, 86,000 miles	£2995
2005 55 RENAULT MEGANE 1.9 DCI (130) DYNAMIQUE 3 door, blue, above average mileage	£2495
2004 04 VAUXHALL VECTRA 2.2 SXi DTI estate, blue, 129,000 miles	£1995
2004 04 RENAULT LAGUNA DYNAMIQUE 1.9 DCI (120 BHP) 5 door, blue, 96,000 miles	£1695
2003 53 CITROEN BERLINGO MULTI SPACE 2.0 HDI DESIRE 5 door, blue, average mileage	£2695
2003 53 MITSUBISHI SPACE STAR 1.9 DI-D EQUIPPE 5 door, grey, slightly above mileage	£1695
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2007 57 RENAULT CLIO 1.2 AUTHENTIQUE 5 door, red, 65,000 miles	£3995

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2011 61 NISSAN NOTE N TEC auto, beige, 2300 miles	£6995
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2001 Y NISSAN ALMERA TINO 1.8 SE 5 door, green, 97,000 miles	£995
2001 X HYUNDAI ACCENT 1.5 CDX, blue, 23,000 miles	£995

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 54 CITROEN C2 1.4, 3DR, silver, very long mot, service history..... £1,495  
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 05 FIAT PUNTO 1.2 long mot, light blue..... £995  
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To apply, email or call Jayne Ellum for an application form quoting job title. 01223 434380 [jayne.ellum@cambridge-news.co.uk](mailto:jayne.ellum@cambridge-news.co.uk)  
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Friday, 26 December 2014 Thursday, 01 January 2015

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**Dumb and Dumber To (15)**  
Fri, Sat: 12:10, 14:45, 17:30, 20:15, 22:00, 23:00.  
Sun, Mon, Tues: 12:10, 14:45, 17:30, 20:15 Subtitled Tues.  
Wed: 10:15, 13:00, 15:50, 18:45, 21:30.  
Thurs: 10:30, 13:10, 15:45, 18:15, 21:00, 23:00  
**Exodus: Gods And Kings (12A)**  
Daily except Thurs: 17:10, 20:30.  
Thurs: 17:15, 20:45  
**Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb (PG)**  
Daily except Thurs: 10:00, 11:00, 13:30, 16:00, 18:30.  
Thurs: 09:55, 12:20, 14:45  
**Penguins Of Madagascar (U)**  
Daily except Sun, Thurs: 09:40, 12:00, 14:30.  
Sun: 12:00, 14:30  
**The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies (12A)**  
Fri: 10:00, 12:20, 13:20, 15:40, 16:40, 19:00, 20:00, 22:15, 23:10.  
Sat: 10:10, 12:20, 13:20, 15:40, 16:40, 19:00, 20:00, 22:15, 23:10.  
Sun, Mon, Tues: 10:10, 12:20, 13:20, 15:40, 16:40, 19:00, 20:00, 22:05, 22:05.  
Wed: 10:10, 12:20, 13:20, 15:40, 16:40, 19:00, 20:00.  
Thurs: 09:40, 12:45, 16:00, 19:15, 22:20  
**The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 1 (12A)**  
Daily except Thurs: 12:30, 15:15, 18:15, 21:15  
**The Jungle Book Disney Days at Vue (U)**  
Daily: 10:45  
**The Woman In Black: Angel Of Death (15)**  
Thurs: 09:40, 10:30, 12:00, 13:00, 14:30, 15:30, 17:00, 18:00, 19:30, 20:30, 22:00, 22:55  
Show times are subject to change without notice Cinema opens 20 minute prior to the first film for that day.

**Boxtrolls (PG) Autism Friendly**  
Sun: 10:00  
**Exodus: Gods And Kings (12A)**  
Fri, Sat: 12:50, 16:10, 19:30, 22:45.  
Sun, Mon, Tues, Thurs: 12:50, 16:10, 19:30, 21:55.  
Wed: 12:50, 16:10, 19:30  
**Nativity 3: Dude, Where's My Donkey? (U)**  
Daily except Thurs: 09:50  
**Paddington (PG)**  
Daily except Wed, Thurs: 09:40, 10:30, (13:00 Subtitled Sun), 15:30, 18:00, 20:30.  
Wed: 10:30, 13:00, 15:30, 18:00, 20:30.  
Thurs: 10:25, 13:00, 15:20, 18:00, 20:30  
**The Book of Life (U) Kids Ad**  
Daily except Thurs: 10:30.  
Thurs: 10:25  
**The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies 3D (12A)**  
Daily except Thurs: 21:00  
**The Imitation Game (12A)**  
Fri, Sat, Thurs: 22:50  
**The Theory of Everything (12A)**  
Thurs: 11:00, 14:00, 17:00, 20:00, 22:45  
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Thurs: 13:25, 16:30, 19:45

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TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING  
(DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) ORDER 2010  
NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13  
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990  
APPLICATIONS FOR PLANNING PERMISSION**

- N/2014/1226 The Shippen 1 Cattle Hill**  
Listed Building Application for various internal alterations to 1st floor bathroom and installation of external drainage pipe and extractor fan cover. Grade Two Listed Building.
- N/2014/1350 10 Abington Square**  
Change of use of shop premises (use class A1) to restaurant/café (use class A3) and alteration to shop front and installation of extraction flue at rear. Within Boot & Shoe Conservation Area.
- N/2014/1390 Land adj to St Edmunds Terrace St Edmunds Road**  
Erection of a 2 storey building to provide 2 Self-Contained flats Within Boot & Shoe Conservation Area.
- N/2014/1411 41 Church Way**  
Removal of garage and outbuildings including bay window; erection of single storey rear and two storey side extensions with front and rear dormers and raising ridge height; erection of entrance canopy and detached garage. Part removal of boundary stone wall. Within Weston Favell Conservation Area.
- N/2014/1417 Beechwood 1 Abington Park Crescent**  
Replacement of front window. Within Abington Park Conservation Area.
- N/2014/1418 6B Abington Street**  
Change of use of ground floor from shop (use class A1) to restaurant (use class A3) Within All Saints Conservation Area.

Members of the public may inspect copies of the application, plans and any other documentation submitted at the One Stop Shop, Guildhall, St Giles Square, Northampton, NN1 1DE during all reasonable office hours. Plans can also be viewed on-line at [www.northampton.gov.uk](http://www.northampton.gov.uk), click on 'planning' and then 'planning search facility'. Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications should write to the Planning Division Guildhall, St Giles Square, Northampton NN1 1DE or email [planning@northampton.gov.uk](mailto:planning@northampton.gov.uk) by 21/01/2015.

S P Boyes, Director – Regeneration, Enterprise & Planning  
Northampton Borough Council

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## Knill plots Boxing Day win over his former employers

### COBBLERS

BY CIARAN THOMAS

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The Christmas period provides little respite for players and staff but Alan Knill said the Cobblers are relishing the upcoming festive football feast.

Northampton host Knill's former club Bury on Boxing Day before making the trip up to Tranmere on Sunday, but the Sixfields assistant manager isn't worried about the prospect of playing two crunch League Two matches in three days.

Town go into Christmas sat in 19th, their lowest league position of the season to date, but Knill said the quick turnaround meant things can soon look very different with a couple of positive results.

"Everybody's used to it," said Knill. "You know what's to come, we play Friday and Sunday and it's a quick turnaround."

"The only thing is it's an overnight stay with Tranmere which does make it a little bit more difficult. It's a great time, these games come thick and fast and by the end of the Christmas period what's been a bleak position can be looking up."

"That's what we're all focused on, quickly getting those games and getting some points on the board, and then we can start January looking forwards and upwards."

Knill added that Northampton will have to get better defensively if they are to turn around their recent slump. Last weekend's 2-1 defeat at Carlisle was the Cobblers' eighth in the last ten games in League Two, a spell which has seen them leak 18 goals.

"You have to be realistic about it, you have to look down," said Knill. "But I still think the focus for us is up, we need to focus on what we can do well and what we need to do, which is stop goals going in."

"You look at the leagues and you see the teams at the top of the league, often those top seven teams are not the ones who score the most, but the ones who con-



BURY TEST: Alan Knill  
Picture: Andy Kearns

cede the least.

"We really need to do so because attacking wise we're sixth in the league but defensively we're fourth from bottom or worse so that has to change."

"I think there has been some contributing factors, we've never had a settled back four, whether that's due to injuries or lack of form. That has to change in the second part of the season."

"At the moment it's too easy for the opposition to score against us, that's for us to stop and the players need to be stronger mentally."

Zander Diamond returned to action at Carlisle on Saturday and Knill revealed fellow centre half Ryan Cresswell is also close to a first team return, but not in time for Boxing Day.

"He's still feeling it a little bit," he said. "Obviously he came back and trained and then felt it before the Plymouth game and we had to leave him out there."

"It's still a re-occurrence of that [previous knee injury], we thought he was going to be fit for Friday but unfortunately he's not going

to make it, but we don't think he's far away."

"Obviously we've got Tom Newey to come back in as well and we think that'll be a bit later but hopefully we can get some sort of settled side and a settled back four."

"Those teams at the top don't usually change their back four that much, around it can change, in front of it can change, but usually that back four or five doesn't."

Bury were in the top three until a recent spell of just one win in eight and only Hartlepool have picked up less points than the Shakers and the Cobblers in the last ten games.

Knill believes Boxing Day's opponents remain a good side but, like the Cobblers, are going through a rough patch, one he hopes continues into Friday's game.

"They're a good side and they've got good players," he said.

"Obviously it's a club I know really well, we watched them against Luton on Tuesday and I thought they played really well."

"They are a bit like us, they just can't find any form at the moment, walking away from every game thinking they should have got something but they're not."

"Every team goes through a period where things just don't go for them. I think Bury are going through that now and we're hopeful that continues on Boxing Day and we turn around our fortunes."

Knill managed Bury for three years before moving to Scunthorpe in 2011, and admitted he still has fond memories of the club and his spell at Gigg Lane.

However, he said three points for Northampton Town is all that matters to him.

"I've said before that when you play against your ex-clubs, you want to win," he said. "Don't get me wrong I love Bury and I loved my time there, it was a great time but I'm not at Bury any more."

"I'm at Northampton and when you're in professional sport it's an employer, you're employed by that football club for a certain amount of time and you move on and you're employed by the next one."

Burrell: Tigers win an 'amazing' feeling



DELIGHT: Luther Burrell

### SAINTS

Luther Burrell struggled to put his emotions into words after 14-man Northampton Saints battled their way to a derby victory over Leicester Tigers on Saturday.

Skipper Dylan Hartley saw red for striking Matt Smith after just 15 minutes and the Tigers were soon awarded a penalty try.

Niki Goneva crossed over twice for Leicester but tries from Alex Waller, Ben Foden and Jamie Elliott secured a dramatic 23-19 triumph at Franklin's Gardens.

And after it was Tom Stephenson who was sacrificed following Hartley's dismissal, Burrell sympathised with his fellow centre.

"That is an absolutely amazing feeling," he said. "To go down to 14 players, that's what it means to play for this club – the absolute pride to play for the jersey – and it is fantastic to be a part of."

"It is unfortunate for Tom Stephenson, who has been in fantastic form. He came into the squad for George Pisi, who has done his hamstring, and he was hugely excited for this game but unfortunately he had to take the rap for it."

"We said at half-time we will do this for Dylan, we'll do it for Stepho and that is what it means to play for this club. It doesn't get much better than that."

And the England man insisted Northampton's fitness gave them the edge in the latter stages.

He added: "That's one thing that we pride ourselves on – our conditioning staff are fantastic. We like to play a high-tempo game and that is what we brought. We knew that going down to 14 players it was going to be tough but we just needed to keep there or thereabouts."

"It takes a lot to come back from a try down and we missed a couple of tackles out wide on [Miles] Benjamin so to come back and win it in that fashion is absolutely fantastic."

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# We only need 14

• Saints shrug off Dylan Hartley red card to stun rivals Leicester

Defending champions Northampton Saints head into Christmas on top of the Premiership pile after a heroic East Midlands derby victory over Leicester Tigers with just 14 men on Saturday.

Jim Mallinder's side had a mountain to climb when skipper Dylan Hartley was sent off for an elbow on Leicester's Matt Smith after just 16 minutes of the contest at Franklin's Gardens.

It didn't deter Northampton though, who claimed a stunning 23-19 win against their fierce rivals.

Hartley has been banned for three weeks after an RFU disciplinary hearing at which he pleaded guilty by conference call.

In 2007 he was handed a 26-week ban for eye gouging and he also received 11 weeks on the sidelines for comments made to referee Wayne Barnes during the 2013 Premiership final against Leicester at Twickenham.

The latter saw Hartley miss the British & Irish Lions tour to Australia and with England's Six Nations campaign beginning in February in a World Cup year, Dylan will be keen to put this disciplinary issue behind him quickly. See the Herald & Post website for updates.



**TIGERS TAMED:** Ben Foden dives over against Leicester as George North celebrates. Picture: Andy Kearns

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